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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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MORRISS O'BRYANT COMPAGNI, P.C.
136 SOUTH MAIN STREET
SUITE 700
SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84101

EXAMINER

FERGUSON, MICHAEL P

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3679

DATE MAILED: 09/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/092,767

Applicant(s)

KRESS ET AL.

Examiner

Michael P. Ferguson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 6-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6-10 and 12-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 11 and 18-21 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 March 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 19 is objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 19 (line 11) recites "when said at least one projecting shoulder". It should recite --when each said projecting shoulder--.

For the purpose of examining the application, it is assumed that appropriate correction has been made.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 6-9 and 12-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sanderson (US 2,022,055).

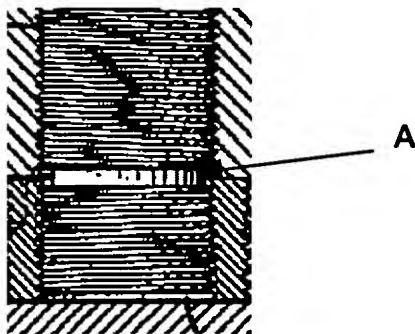
As to claim 6, Sanderson discloses a device for connecting two tool parts **1,2,4** configured for receiving a threaded spindle, each of the tool parts having an associated threaded area, and wherein the device comprises:

a threaded spindle **3** having a projecting shoulder **7**, the outside diameter of which is slightly smaller than the interior diameter of the associated threaded area of one of the tool parts **1** to approximate the interior diameter such that the projecting shoulder serves to guide the threaded spindle into, and provide axial and angular alignment between, the two tool parts, the projecting shoulder having a centered (co-

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centrically centered with the axis of spindle 3) and axially inwardly extending opening 10 configured to receive a tool for effecting rotation of the threaded spindle when the projecting shoulder is inserted within a tool part (Figures 1 and 7).

As to claim 7, Sanderson discloses a device wherein a threaded spindle 3 has a first end 7 and a second end A and further comprises a projecting shoulder 7,A at each said end (Figure 1 reprinted with annotations below).



As to claim 8, Sanderson discloses a device wherein the outside diameter of a projecting shoulder 7,A at each end 7,A is slightly smaller than the interior threads of an associated threaded area of a corresponding tool part 1,2,4 to approximate the interior threads thereof to guide a threaded spindle 3 into, and provide axial and angular alignment between, the two tool parts (Figure 1).

As to claim 9, Sanderson discloses a device wherein a threaded spindle 3 has two threaded sections 5,6, each being threaded in a direction opposite the other and assigned to corresponding threaded areas of tool parts 1,2,4 (Figure 1).

As to claim 12, Sanderson discloses a connection for connecting two tool pieces, the connection having:

a first tool piece **1** having a threaded area for receiving a first threaded section of a threaded spindle;

a second tool piece **2,4** having a threaded area for receiving a second threaded section of a threaded spindle;

a threaded spindle **3** having a first threaded sections **5** for engaging the threaded area of the first tool piece and a second threaded section **6** for engaging the threaded area of the second tool piece, and wherein the threaded spindle has a shoulder **7** extending beyond one of the threaded sections, the projecting shoulder having an outer diameter slightly smaller than the interior diameter of the threaded area of the first tool piece for approximating the interior diameter of the threaded area to thereby guide the threaded section into the threaded area and provide axial and angular alignment of the first and second tool pieces, the projecting shoulder having a centered (co-centrally centered with the axis of spindle **3**) and axially inwardly extending opening **10** configured for receiving a tool for effecting rotation of the threaded spindle via the projecting shoulder when inserted in the first or second tool piece (Figures 1 and 7).

As to claim 13, Sanderson discloses a connection wherein a second tool piece **2,4** partially nests within a first tool piece **1** (Figure 1).

As to claim 14, Sanderson discloses a connection wherein a threaded spindle **3** has a opposing ends **7,A** and has a projecting shoulder **7,A** at each end (Figure 1).

As to claim 15, Sanderson discloses a connection wherein the outside diameter of each projecting shoulder **7,A** at each end **7,A** is slightly smaller than the interior threads of an associated threaded area of a corresponding tool piece **1,2,4** to

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approximate the interior threads to guide a threaded spindle 3 into place and to provide axial and angular alignment between first and second tool pieces 1,2,4 (Figure 1).

As to claim 16, Sanderson discloses a connection wherein threaded sections 5,6 of a threaded spindle 3 have opposing orientations and are assigned to corresponding threaded areas of tool pieces 1,2,4 (Figure 1).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 10 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sanderson.

As to claim 10, Sanderson fails to disclose a device wherein threaded sections of a threaded spindle have differing outside diameters for being correspondingly adapted to the differing interior diameters of two tool parts.

The applicant is reminded that a change in the size of a prior art device is a design consideration within the skill of the art. In re Rose, 220 F.2d 459, 105 USPQ 237 (CCPA 1955). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify a device as disclosed by Sanderson to have threaded sections of a threaded spindle having differing outside diameters for being correspondingly adapted to the differing interior diameters of two tool parts as such practice is a design consideration within the skill of the art.

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As to claim 17, Sanderson fails to disclose a connection wherein threaded sections of a threaded spindle have differing outside diameters and threaded areas of tool pieces have correspondingly adapted interior diameters.

The applicant is reminded that a change in the size of a prior art device is a design consideration within the skill of the art. In re Rose, 220 F.2d 459, 105 USPQ 237 (CCPA 1955). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify a connection as disclosed by Sanderson to have threaded sections of a threaded spindle having differing outside diameters and threaded areas of tool pieces having correspondingly adapted interior diameters as such practice is a design consideration within the skill of the art.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 11 and 19-21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

As to claim 19, Sanderson discloses the claimed device with the exception of wherein each of the projecting shoulders is configured with an axially inwardly extending opening for receiving a tool for effecting rotation of the threaded spindle when each projecting shoulder is inserted within a tool part.

The prior art neither teaches nor suggests a device comprising a threaded spindle having a first end, a second end and a projecting shoulder extending from each

each of the first end and the second end, each of the projecting shoulders being configured with an axially inwardly extending opening for receiving a tool for effecting rotation of the threaded spindle when each projecting shoulder is inserted within a tool part.

It would not have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify a device as disclosed by Sanderson to have the above mentioned elements as the prior art neither teaches nor suggests such modifications.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments filed July 19, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

As to claims 6 and 12, Attorney argues that:

Sanderson does not disclose a device comprising a threaded spindle *having at least one projecting shoulder having a centered and axially inwardly extending opening configured to receive a tool for effecting rotation of the threaded spindle when the projecting shoulder is inserted within a tool part.*

Examiner disagrees. As to claims 6 and 12, Sanderson discloses a device comprising a threaded spindle **3** having a projecting shoulder **7** having a centered (co-centrally centered with the axis of spindle **3**) and axially inwardly extending opening **10** configured to receive a tool for effecting rotation of the threaded spindle when the projecting shoulder is inserted within a tool part (Figure 1).

Conclusion

9. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael P. Ferguson whose telephone number is (703)308-8591. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (703)308-2686. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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09/14/04



DANIEL P. STODOLA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600